INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

isac e-news

April 2014



Jeffrey K. Riley, ISAAC President

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

 \mathcal{F} irst, my apologies for the delay in our usually prompt publication of ISAAC E-News. There are many recent developments that I wanted to share with you, and of course many initiatives that are occupying the ISAAC International Office, Executive Board, and ISAAC Committee volunteers, which resulted in our slight delay.

ISAAC Conference 2014 is well underway, with the Scientific Program complete, and authors and presenters now in receipt of presentation dates and times. The completion of this step establishes the core framework of the conference, an important and vital achievement as we move toward our biennial gathering this year in Lisbon, Portugal.

Other commitments met in recent weeks include an important one on March 18, 2014, when the muchawaited draft Position Statement and Report of the ISAAC Ad Hoc Committee on Facilitated Communication (FC) was finally released to the ISAAC Executive Board. As an ISAAC Council and membership initiative, the documents can be readily accessed by any ISAAC member in the "Members Only" portion of the ISAAC website. The ISAAC Council will discuss and move forward on this initiative when we reconvene in July. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all groups and individuals who made submissions to the committee – your engagement in the process is valued. Also, I would like to thank the volunteer Ad Hoc Committee on FC for their significant contribution of time and energy to this initiative.

On the subject of volunteers, this past week in my home country of Canada we celebrated National Volunteer Week – an opportunity to publicly recognize and thank the millions of volunteers in our country who give so generously of their time and energy to make our society a better place. In the context of ISAAC's many initiatives and accomplishments, it is sometimes easy to forget that much of the work of ISAAC is done by individual ISAAC members, who freely commit their time and energy to ensure, in many different ways, that our fellow human beings obtain, and retain, access to communication through AAC. Our

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Message from the President ... continued

ISAAC volunteers working on committees, initiatives, and events give generously of their time and energy – time which is freely given from their lives, in addition to playing full roles in work. community, education, and family life. Without them ISAAC would not exist. In this spirit, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and salute the many ISAAC volunteers: we stand on your shoulders to touch the sky, and your example leads us to a better world. To our ISAAC members, and people yet to become ISAAC members, I invite you to learn more about ISAAC, read more about ISAAC – and to come and share with us in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2014, the ideas, the laughter, and the inspiration that has been so generously provided by ISAAC members and volunteers.

Best wishes to you all, *leff*

Jeff Riley ISAAC President 2012-2014

WELCOME, ISAAC-TAIWAN!

Prof. Stephen Hawking to be Awarded First-ever ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award

ISAAC is thrilled to announce that renowned physicist Professor Stephen Hawking has been named as the first ever recipient of the ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will be officially presented at ISAAC the upcoming 2014 Conference, July 21-24, 2014, in Lisbon, Portugal. Although Professor Hawking will be unable to attend in person, a pre-recorded acceptance speech will be part of the program.

A news release with full details is posted on the <u>ISAAC website</u>.

CCCF UPDATE

ISAAC is pleased to partner with the Central Coast Children's Foundation (<u>CCCF</u>). A description of CCCF, its goals and activities, can be found on our website <u>here</u>. CCCF's latest <u>ACWN Newsletter</u>, December 2013, features articles and information about AAC activities in Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, USA, Poland, Romania, and Belarus.

It is with great pleasure and excitement that the ISAAC Executive Board, Council, and staff would like to advise all members that the newest ISAAC Chapter has been created and accepted, <u>ISAAC-Taiwan</u>.

We know that all members will join in welcoming ISAAC-Taiwan to the global ISAAC community, and we invite all in attendance at ISAAC Conference 2014 this July in Lisbon, Portugal, to seek out and personally welcome the Chapter representatives and members.

ISAAC looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship between ISAAC International and ISAAC-Taiwan.

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<u>Connect to</u> <u>ISAAC's</u> <u>YouTube</u> <u>Channel</u>

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... From the Executive Director

Descobrir a Comunicação – Discover Communication!

was looking at my calendar back in December, wondering where the time has gone. Now that we are only three (3) months from the start of ISAAC 2014, the ISAAC International office and staff are very excited and are working very hard to make sure that our Conference this year is a "smashing success"!

Our online registration portal went live in January, and although we did have a few settling-in issues related to software, I am pleased to advise that overall, the system is working very nicely. I am grateful to our multinational Finnish, Portuguese, American, and Canadian information technology team for pulling all this together! It is truly remarkable what intelligent and motivated people can achieve when working towards a common goal!

I am pleased to advise that the registration response to the Early Bird conference rate was tremendous. ISAAC Conference 2014 now boasts paid registrations from members and non-members alike representing over 35 countries from around the world. Companies too are signing up to be part of the Exhibit Hall, and Conference 2014 now boasts organizations from countries including Portugal, the United Kingdom, Spain, the United States, Canada, Belgium, and Sweden.

We are especially excited about the involvement from the Portuguese-speaking parts of the world, notably Portugal and Brazil. Our conference Parabéns! scheduling committee worked hard in ensuring that both Englishand Portuguese-language papers are given appropriate representation, and we have also recently notified authors of all accepted papers on the date, time, and formats for their presentations.

We are also truly thrilled to have secured the agreement of Professor Stephen Hawking to honour him with the first-ever presented ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award, linked to the creation of an ISAAC endowment. We very much look forward to this aspect of the Conference in Lisbon, and are working closely with both Professor Hawking and sponsors to ensure it achieves a level of success commensurate with that of its first honouree.

Finally, it is that time of year where we need our Chapters to diligently report their 2014 membership renewals to the

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Franklin Smith, ISAAC Executive Director



The 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC in Lisbon, Portugal

Pre-conference Workshops & AAC Camp: July 19-20

Main Conference July 21 – 24

> Research Symposium: July 25-26

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... From the Executive Director, continued

ISAAC International office. We need to receive Chapter membership information no later than April 30th, in order to ensure that Chapter members are listed in this year's Membership Directory. Please provide our Membership Coordinator, Teraiz El-Deir, with this information directly by email to isaac@isaac-online.org.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate

to contact me directly, at <u>franklin@isaac-online.org</u>, should you require any further information or assistance. Please bear with me if it takes a few days for me to respond. Things are just a bit busy in these last few months before the Conference!

Regards and thanks, <u>Franklin Smith</u>

ISAAC CONFERENCE 2014: DATES - DEADLINES - DETAILS

AAC CAMP JULY 19-20, 2014 Detailed information on AAC Camp activities available <u>here</u>

ISAAC 2014 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS JULY 19-20, 2014 Themes and presenters available <u>here</u> (Please note that consecutive translation into Portuguese will be available for selected sessions)

> MAIN CONFERENCE JULY 21 - 24, 2014 PRE-REGISTRATION RATE DEADLINE: MAY 16, 2014 LATE REGISTRATION RATE DEADLINE: JULY 21, 2014

2014 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM JULY 24-26, 2014 VENUE: SANA LISBOA HOTEL Seminar topics, organizers and abstracts available <u>here</u>



Please check the full list of <u>Official Registration Rates</u> to ensure that you register for ISAAC Conference 2014 events at the best available rates!

ISAAC members are eligible for special conference rates. Please note that in order to guarantee these reduced rates you will need to renew your ISAAC membership for 2014 by April 30th at the latest.



ISAAC BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2014

In accordance with section 8.1.5 of the Bylaws of ISAAC (2012), this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming **ISAAC Biennial Membership Meeting**, taking place at the 16th Biennial ISAAC Conference:



Date: Wednesday, July 23rd, 2014 Time: 14:15 to15:45 Location: Centro de Congressos de Lisboa – Lisboa Congress Centre Pç. das Indústrias - 1300-307 Lisboa, Portugal Room: To Be Announced

Called by the Chair of the Council, Chih-Kang Yang February 19th, 2014



Draft Position Statement on Facilitated Communication

ISAAC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH RESPECTIVE MEMBERS AND PROVIDE STRUCTURED FEEDBACK FOR 2014 ISAAC COUNCIL MEETING

In 2012, ISAAC commissioned an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a draft Position Statement on Facilitated Communication. (There are several communications available for review on the ISAAC website news section that relate to steps and historical development of this initiative. Readers are encouraged to review the information for a more detailed synopsis of the history of the process.) As agreed and directed at the ISAAC Council meeting in July 2012, the completed draft Position Statement on Facilitated Communication and accompanying report are now released to the ISAAC Council and membership for review. As an ISAAC Council and membership initiative, the documents can be readily accessed by any ISAAC member in the "members-only" portion of the ISAAC website.

ISAAC Council representatives are encouraged to seek input from their respective members on this first draft of the Position Statement, in preparation for discussion of this topic at the next ISAAC Council meeting in July 2014. Council representatives have been provided with a specific feedback method to reflect consultations with their respective members, and to provide feedback to the Ad Hoc Committee for limited refinements to the statement. Council representatives are urged to be prepared to discuss this initiative and participate in decision-making on ISAAC's next steps at our Council meeting in July 2014.

On behalf of ISAAC. I would like to thank the committee members for their many months of voluntary work and dedication to this initiative your precious gift of time and energy to ISAAC is greatly appreciated and valued. I would also like to thank the many ISAAC members, and members of the public, who submitted a great quantity and variety of information to the committee, for your passion for AAC and your engagement in the process. I look forward to ISAAC taking the next step in this initiative when the ISAAC Council meets in July 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Thank-you all and best regards, Jeff

Jeffrey K. Riley ISAAC President





Conference 2014 Updates

STAR ALLIANCE IS THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE NETWORK FOR ISAAC 2014



The Star Alliance member airlines are pleased to be the Official Airline Network for ISAAC 2014. You can save up to 20% when booking your travel to the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC with one of Star Alliance's participating airlines. Details are available <u>here</u>.

Please note that these savings are only available to ISAAC members, and Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors.

To book your airfare at reduced conference rates, please follow the steps outlined <u>here</u>, in the Members Only section of the ISAAC website.

NEW TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM



New this year is the <u>Travel Award for</u> <u>New Professionals' Attendance at the</u> <u>Biennial Conference of ISAAC</u>, sponsored by <u>AssistiveWare</u>[®].

ISAAC would like to thank AssistiveWare[®] for supporting the learning environment offered by ISAAC at our biennial conferences for professionals working in the field of AAC.

Thanks to all who submitted applications for travel assistance to attend Conference 2014 under various programs. The application process for all programs has now closed. For further details on ISAAC awards and scholarships, <u>click here.</u>.

DISCOVER ACCESSIBLE LISBON

We are excited to be hosting ISAAC Conference 2014 in beautiful Lisbon, a city with a rich history and culture, and a welcoming spirit. <u>Accessible Lisbon</u> is a guide to the city, compiled by our ISAAC 2014 conference hosts. In addition to an overview of what to see and do in Lisbon, you will also find information on accessibility and services for people with disabilities, including transportation and technical assistance.

Silent Auction and BUILD Book Donations

Once again we are asking those attending the ISAAC biennial conference to consider bringing an item to donate to the Silent Auction (located in the Exhibit Hall).

In addition, those who would like to donate AAC resources to conference delegates from developing countries, please let us know. Details to follow.

For more information, contact <u>Heather Stonehouse</u>.



ISAAC 2014

Conference 2014 Updates ... continued

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS, AAC CAMP AND RESEARCH Symposium details

For an overview of scheduled events for the above programs, please <u>click here.</u>

2014 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The <u>ISAAC 2014 Research</u> <u>Symposium</u> will be held on July 25-26, 2014, directly following the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC. The Research Symposium creates opportunities for discussion of research issues and needs related to AAC, with the goal of expanding the knowledge base of the field. This year's seminar topics are:

Psycholinguistic Models and AAC Organizers: <u>Filip Loncke</u> & <u>Bruce R. Baker</u>

Natural Language Processing and AAC: Current Advances at the Interface between Technology and Communication Organizer: Annalu Waller

Global Trends and AAC Users: Research Issues and Need Organizer: <u>R. Rangasayee</u>

Processes of Aided Language Development in Cognitively Highfunctioning Children and Adolescents Organizers: <u>Stephen Von</u> <u>Tetzchner</u> and <u>Judith Oxley</u> Abstracts for the above seminar topics are available <u>here</u>.

The Symposium Co-chairs, Lyle L. Lloyd, Stephen von Tetzchner, Linda Koehler, and Isabel Maria Amaral, would like to thank the organizers for their commitment to the success of this year's symposium.

You can register for the 2014 Research Symposium through the Conference 2014 website, <u>here</u>.

ISAAC 2014 HOTELS

Information is <u>available online</u> for hotel accommodations in Lisbon for the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC.

The first group, <u>ISAAC's "Picks"</u>, includes five hotel options. These hotels are offering special ISAAC Conference 2014 rates, available when reserving online through the Conference 2014 website.

Please note that due to high demand during the early registration period, the Fenix Hotel is no longer available.

Transportation between ISAAC's "Picks" hotels only and the Lisboa Congress Centre will be available for all conference attendees.

The second listing, <u>Additional Hotel</u> <u>Choices</u>, provides a number of hotels situated in various locations around the city.



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ATTENTION EXHIBITORS!

We have space for you at



Join us for the 16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication



Where: Lisboa Congress Centre, Lisbon, Portugal

> *When:* July 21st - 24th 2014

For ISAAC 2014 Exhibit sales information, contact: Tony Needer, Conference 2014 Exhibitor Sales Specialist <u>tony@isaac-online.org</u> Tel: 905-850-6848 ext. 233 or visit www.isaac-online.org





Photos: (below) Shelley Deegan, centre, of the Technology Access Clinic, and Vic Valentic were the Flash Mob conductors

(right) Vic Valentic, ISAAC Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, was a media spokesperson. To view a local news report, <u>click here</u>.

Photos courtesy of: Victor Valentic

AAC Flash Mob! Mohawk College, Hamilton, Canada

A "flash mob" took place on March 19th at Mohawk College's annual Accessibility Day in Hamilton, Canada.

Mohawk students helped to organize the event, an idea developed by Shelley Deegan, former ISAAC Council Chair, and Vic Valentic, ISAAC's current Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, both of whom live in Hamilton.

Vivian Butch, a person who uses AAC, wrote the song, titled



"I've Got a Lot to Say." The song was professionally recorded (ISAAC International helped with the production costs) and programmed on a number of AAC devices used by clients of the Technology Access Clinic at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Following the flash mob, Mohawk College students had the opportunity to interact with people who use AAC. For more details about this event, <u>click here</u>.







ISAAC's Blog

If you haven't had a chance to visit ISAAC's Blog, you can catch up <u>here</u>. Recent posts feature guest blogger Sally Clendon, one of our <u>ISAAC 2014</u> <u>Pre-conference Workshop</u> presenters, on "<u>Teaching versus Testing</u>", as well as Diane Nelson Bryen and Juan Bornman on their new e-book, <u>Stop</u> <u>Violence Against People with Disabilities!</u>

We'd appreciate any feedback and suggestions for future blog topics. Please <u>drop us a line</u>!



Submitted by <u>Weh Yeoh</u> Disability Consultant CABDICO, Cambodia

Introducing Speech Therapy in Cambodia

'n Cambodia, recent research has shown that I in 25 Cambodians require access to speech therapy services, yet less than 1,000 are receiving them. The huge gap between need and delivery exists due to a lack of clear identification of the benefits of speech therapy in relevant conventions, laws, and policies. Furthermore, although there are various non-profit organizations treating children and adults with communication and swallowing disorders in Cambodia, none are delivering comprehensive speech therapy services, nor encouraging collaboration between the different organizations. There are no university -graduated Cambodian speech therapists.

Late last year, CABDICO, a small independent NGO working with people with disabilities, initiated a speech therapy program using funds from the Australian Government to address this issue. They began by researching the extent of the problem, and mapping out which providers were working in each area. The startling statistic above, of I in 25 people requiring these services, came from this research. They then organized a workshop involving government and non-government, international and local, and academic guests to discuss the future of speech therapy in Cambodia. They met with representatives from a local university, who agreed in principle to support the development of a speech therapy program. Finally, they were able to participate in a workshop with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth (MoSVY) to ensure the explicit mention of speech therapy in the National Disability Strategic Plan.

The hard work has only just begun. CABDICO is piloting a speech therapy program, which aims to improve their staff's knowledge on speech therapy, and measure the impact of this training on children with communication and swallowing problems. The aim is to show that speech therapy can work in a Cambodian context. Once the pilot has been completed, the results will be shown to the Cambodian government and non-government staff. It is hoped that will provide the impetus for the allocation of more resources.

CABDICO hopes to create a future for speech therapy in Cambodia. The main road block at the moment is a lack of access to financial resources. We are looking to connect with individuals and organizations with an interest in their work as part of an international context, especially in developing countries. We are hoping to meet people who are happy to share their experiences with us, tο offer advice a n d professional expertise, and to connect us with possible research partners or funding sources.

Please contact <u>weh@cabdico.org</u> for more information.



Bliss i-Band: New Project Opens up Musical Opportunity for People who use AAC

Bliss i - Band F The Lillian and Don Wrigh Canad:

Submitted by <u>Audrey King</u> and <u>Shirley</u> <u>McNaughton</u>, Toronto, Canada

he Bliss i-Band Project is designed to encourage creative expression through music ensemble playing. Participants in the pilot project have disabilities that have until now prevented them from holding playing musical or а instrument, composing music, or playing within a group. Using iPads and apps, the potential to do all of these things is now within reach. An iPad app can electronically provide a range of musical instruments, which participants can learn to play with a finger, stylus or alternative input modality.

The Bliss i-Band is currently in its start-up phase. The music director is Shirley McNaughton C.M., Ph.D., ARCT. Shirley has past experience in leading music groups with children (Carl Orff – Music for Children) and in recent years with seniors (Enabling Seniors to Enjoy Ensemble Music – ESTEEM), in both Canada and the US. Shirley's primary passion is working with persons who are nonspeaking. An ISAAC past president, Shirley supports an ISAAC award in her name and currently resides in Toronto. The consultant/advisor for the project is Audrey King M.A. (Psych), an internationally renowned speaker, writer, and advocate on disability issues. Audrey is an artist and the author of several books, including "There's Lint in Your Bellybutton" and "Count Me In." She worked for many years in the Department Psychology the at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital.

This innovative project has been made possible by a grant from the Lillian and Don Wright Foundation and the Blissymbolics Communication Institute – Canada.



Shirley McNaughton, standing at left of photo, and Audrey King (seated fourth from the right) both lead and participate as the Bliss i-Band learns the basics of forming a music ensemble



An i-Band facilitator plays the recorder to lead the group

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Australian Symbol for Communication Access Now **Trademarked Internationally**

Submitted by Barbara Solarsh Senior Speech Pathologist Scope's **Communication** Resource Centre. Australia

On November 17, 2011, the Australian symbol for communication access was launched by Scope's Communication Resource Centre (CRC). In 2013, ISAAC joined other organisations in endorsing communication access and the communication symbol. Now in 2014, the Communication Access symbol has been approved for international trademarking. Scope will now proceed with the development of the certification rules for registration with the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission.

Since 2011, Scope has achieved a number of important outcomes in a range of areas including:

I. A growing number of businesses and services across different sectors achieving communication access status:

2. Providing paid employment for people with communication difficulties:

3. Partnerships with government services;

4. Collaboration with a national access auditing company;

5. An investigation into the development of a communication

access app;

6. Development of videos demonstrating communication access

in different sectors;

7. Scope's Communication Access Assessors - Winners at the Victorian **Disability Sector Awards**

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Number of businesses and services awarded the Communication Access Symbol in different sectors (Dec 2013)



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1. Businesses and services that have achieved communication access status.

There are over 60 businesses and services that have achieved communication access status by undergoing a communication access assessment and meeting the required standards. These places range from small cafes to specific places in large hospitals, and cover a number of different sectors. Each business or service is entered into the Scope directory of communication accessible We are exploring what places. motivates services to become communication accessible and what benefits they experience as a result of being awarded the symbol.

2. Providing paid employment

There are now 15 trained communication access assessors employed on a casual basis by Scope and other organisations. The assessors also train as communication access educators and co- present papers and workshops with CRC staff at conferences.

3. Partnerships with government services. Scope's Communication Resource Centre has partnered with the



Victorian Electoral Commission and with VLline regional train service to create communication access in these settings.

4. Collaboration with national disability auditors.

In July 2013 the Communication Resource Centre (CRC) collaborated with Access Audits Australia (AAA). The purpose of this was to develop materials that could be included in a training package by the Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA) to highlight features of communication access that need to be considered within a general access audit.

5. Developing a communication access app The 'Communicating in the Community' project has been funded by Australian Communication Exchange (ACE), with the aim of investigating whether people with communication difficulties and business/service staff feel that an app (on a platform such as an iPad) would be a useful tool to improve communication access in the community.

6. Videos demonstrating communication access in different sectors.

The 'Are you communication accessible' video is available on the Scope website and demonstrates features of an accessible Sports and Leisure Centre. The second video which is in process will demonstrate the features of a communication accessible GP practice.

7. The Victorian Disability Sector Awards. The team of communication access

Photo: Naomi Rezanni and Mel Smith (CRC) with assessors at the recent regional meeting of communication access assessors.

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assessors at the Communication Resource Centre won the Excellence in Improving Participation Award. This award is for improving the social participation of and accessibility for people with disability, including assisting people with disabilities to participate in sport, recreation, tourism, employment, the arts and other social and cultural activities. *Next steps?*

The main focus for 2014 is the development of a national strategy for the roll out of communication access. We are also focussing on active inclusion of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind communities so that the communication access symbol is inclusive of all people who face communication barriers.

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC Australia (www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC Brazil

ISAAC Canada (www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC Denmark (<u>www.isaac.dk</u>)

ISAAC Suomi Finland (papunet.net/tikoteekki/inenglish/)

ISAAC French-speaking countries and regions (www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC German-speaking countries and regions (www.isaac-online.de)

ISAAC India (www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

ISAAC Israel (www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC Italy (www.isaacitaly.it) ISAAC Netherlands/Flanders (<u>www.isaac-nf.nl</u>)

ISAAC Norway (<u>www.isaac.no</u>)

ISAAC Sweden (www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC-Taiwan (twsaac.blogspot.tw/)

ISAAC United Kingdom (www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

USSAAC (www.ussaac.org)



ISAAC has Chapters in 16 countries or regions and more than 3,400 members worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or <u>ISAAC International</u> for areas not listed.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

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Visit us at www.isaac-online.org

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays, in article format or as a link to online articles or resources, will be reviewed and made available on the ISAAC website as appropriate. Please send articles and photos to Nola Millin.

ISAAC E-News is published four times each year. Comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact <u>Heather</u> <u>Stonehouse</u>.



ISAAC's Vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world.

ISAAC's *Mission* is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Contact Us

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